

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 115

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to applaud efforts to raise awareness about the People's Republic of China's unethical practice of forced harvesting of organs from prisoners.

WHEREAS, there continue to be persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from nonconsenting prisoners of conscience and members of religious and ethnic minority groups in the People's Republic of China, resulting in mass killings of Uyghurs, Tibetans, select Christians, and practitioners of Falun Gong in order to obtain organs for transplants; and

WHEREAS, China's organ transplantation system does not comply with the World Health Organization's guiding principles of traceability and transparency in organ procurement, and China's government has resisted independent scrutiny of the system; and

WHEREAS, new investigative reports conclude that the Chinese Communist Party has engaged in the mass killings of innocent people to obtain organs for transplants, and China's official figure of 10,000 transplants each year has been understated by an order of magnitude; and

WHEREAS, in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution of the popular spiritual practice of Falun Gong, which is centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, extralegally detaining hundreds of thousands of practitioners in Chinese reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons where torture, abuse, and implausible medical exams and blood tests are routine; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concerns over allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong

prisoners and have called on China's government to increase accountability and transparency in its organ transplantation system and to punish those responsible for abuses; and

WHEREAS, many feel that organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical confidentiality but be openly monitored, and no nation's citizens should travel to China for transplants until China has allowed a full investigation into organ harvesting of past and present prisoners of conscience; and

WHEREAS, the medical community has been encouraged to educate all Americans, including Tennesseans, about the risks of traveling to China for organ transplants so as to prevent anyone from unwittingly becoming involved in murder in the form of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we applaud efforts to raise awareness about the People's Republic of China's unethical practice of forced harvesting of organs from prisoners, especially from Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.